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SES Frequently Asked Questions

Q-What are Supplemental Educational Services (SES)?

A-Supplemental Educational Services are additional academic instruction outside of the school day. These services can be on-site (at the school), in a building outside of the school grounds, or at home either with a tutor or online.

Q-What do these services cost?

A-These services are provided to students who qualify at no cost to the parent/guardian. The district/school pays for the services out of a set-aside amount from its Title I budget.

Q-Who selects the SES provider?

A-The parent/guardian selects the provider from an approved list developed by the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI). The district/school may not add or delete from this list, nor may it influence you in your choice of provider.

Q-How will I be notified about these services?

A-The district/school shall send out a letter to the parent/guardian of all eligible students. This letter will explain what these services are, and it will contain a list and description of the state-approved providers. The district/school shall also advertise in another format such as a school newsletter/paper, or a local newspaper. The district/school shall also give a reasonable amount of time for parents/guardians to request services, usually about six weeks.

Q-What if there isn't much money set aside to provide SES?

A-The district/school is only required to set-aside 10 percent of its Title I budget for services. If there is a limited dollar amount, then the district/school will identify the students with the most need and provide services to them first. If and when the 10% threshold is reached, then the district/school is not required to provide additional dollars to fund the SES services.

Q-Does the district/school have to allow services to take place on school grounds or in a school building?

A-If the district is allowing other groups and organizations to use school facilities, then they must allow the provider to also. However, they may charge the provider for the use of the facilities providing that these charges are consistent with what is charged to other groups/organizations.

Q-Does the district/school have to provide materials such as paper, pencils, computers, books, etc., to the provider?

A-No. The district/school is not obligated to provide additional assistance to the provider.

Q-Who monitors the effectiveness of the SES programs?

A-The district/school and the OPI monitor these programs to make sure that they are effective and doing what is required from the contract signed by the district/school and provider.

Q-What is a contract between the district/school and the provider?

A-This contract will spell out the number of hours of services to be provided, the assessments to be given, the costs of the services, and other information necessary to run the program.

Q-Where can I get additional information about SES under the No Child Left Behind Act?

A-Data can found at the district/school, the OPI Web site (www.opi.mt.gov), at www.ed.gov, or by contacting the OPI at 406-444-5660.

Q-Must the SES provider follow my child's IEP?

A-Yes. All accommodations under an IEP must be followed by the provider as stated in IDEA. In addition, the provider must follow the requirements under Section 504 and all applicable laws under FERPA.